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Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, JUNE 5-7, 2015 | High 24°C/Low 11°C Rainy afternoon

WHEN CROWS ATTACK
metroNEWS

LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

PATIO SEASON, AT LAST
SUMMER SERIES: Metro Favourites launches with a classic place to drink in the sun in metronews

Grits back boulevard

CRUNCH TIME FOR GARDINER

Nine MPs urge city hall to tear down expressway

The federal Liberal party has waded into the battle about the future of the Gardiner Expressway, coming out firmly in favour of the boulevard option.

A letter signed by nine Ontario MPs, including former city councillor Adam Vaughan, urges council to put aside worries over travel times and kick-start waterfront development that will support new transit and more.

The MPs also included three who endorsed John Tory: Arnold Chan, John McKay and Judy Sgro. Also signing were Kirsty Duncan, John McCallum, Chrystia Freeland, Ted Hsu and Carolyn Bennett.

At city hall, the conflict continued, with Toronto's public works chair and a waterfront councillor stepping out to champion opposite positions.

The fight for the support of Torontonians and votes of city councillors came as a Torstar News Service tally suggests council is almost evenly split on the east Gardiner's fate.

Coun. Jaye Robinson backed Mayor John Tory, the man who tapped her for the public works post, in saying the expressway should stay, while Coun. Paula Fletcher wants the aging span adjacent to her ward gone.

"Simply put, we can't afford to let congestion and gridlock get any worse," Robinson told reporters, surrounded by fellow "hybrid-option" supporters on council and independent planner John van Nostrand.

Replacing the 1.7 kilometres of expressway between Jarvis Street and the Don River with an eight-lane, at-grade boulevard would slow traffic too much, she said, and result in a "downtown that's less accessible and less competitive."

Toronto's chief planner Jennifer Keesmaat, and all the living former chief planners, have come down solidly on the side of a boulevard for infusing life into

> **We can't afford to let congestion and gridlock get any worse.**
> Coun. Jaye Robinson

the derelict area and opening up the most land for development.

"Remove is the only prudent option," said Fletcher, citing the significantly higher cost of rebuilding the Gardiner and building new ramps at Cherry Street. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto home prices continue to soar to $1.04 million average price... Who Cares?

As home prices continue to rise in Toronto, this Canadian Real Estate Millionaire wants to share his new way for creating passive income through real estate with you. He'll even let you use his investment fund to finance up to 95% of your income property!

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  - — Average Canadian is $124,838 in debt with over $10,000 in credit card debt.
  - — Over 70% of Canadians believe they will have to work past the traditional retirement age.
- Sometimes it isn't what you know, it's who you know – and when you know this Multi-Millionaire you'll also have access to his network of people and funds that can help you succeed in real estate.
- You care about your family, and you want the best for them. This event will open your eyes to all you can really do for the people you love when you are finally the master of your financial success.
- His strategies are for everyone, even if you have absolutely no experience in buying or selling properties.

He has already shown hundreds of people just like you the ways to invest successfully in real estate – especially when the bottom is falling out of their home market – and his students' success just makes his success even greater. He's breaking his back to share his system because it works – and it can work for you.

This will be the best 2 hours of your life, but you have to register to get your seat at this event. Let this Multi-Millionaire give you his step-by-step system for real estate success. Claim your seat now and get a bonus gift, your **Million Dollar Investor Tool Kit for FREE! (A $187.00 value!!)**

You're asking – who is this Multi- Millionaire, and why does he want to help me? He can tell you himself...

If you're working hard these days without enough to show for it, I understand. I used to work hard myself – the 18-hour days – the 7-day weeks. I was a struggling musician – a concert pianist – trying to provide for my 4 kids in Montreal. I got married at 18 and had those 4 kids by the time I was 23, and I wound up a stay-at-home dad (not by choice!). But I never made real money until I discovered the secrets of investing successfully in US real estate – and then I was able to work a lot less.

Once my friends saw how well I was doing, they all wanted to get involved. It's funny – for 6 long struggling years, I had no friends, I was the crazy "black sheep" of the family who always needed to get a REAL job, and suddenly, they were all asking ME for advice!

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

Victoria student's prom dress, made of schoolwork, auctioned for charity.

Nothing but net

GOOD SAMARITANS

Pair spends $8, wins gratitude of young basketballers

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Pickup basketball games will probably feel a whole bunch better for kids in an east-end area, thanks to a simple act of kindness.

It had become practically normal to play ball with bare rims at the court near Queen and Parliament. The nets having been damaged due to overuse or vandalized in various ways.

Until Tomas Romita took notice.

"It's a little embarrassing," said Romita, who works at a nearby MADE Clothing company, famously known for tailoring suits in basketball jerseys.

"You don't realize that you've been looking at a basketball court with no nets, and that there's a simple solution to that."

When he finally zeroed in on that realization a few weeks ago, it took him a few seconds to order an $8 net on Amazon. Days later, he and a friend were on the empty court fixing the net on the rim. Kids from the neighbourhood came from everywhere and swamped them before the installation was even complete, he said.

This rim wasn't always so well dressed. GILBERT NGABO/METRO

"They were in disbelief," he said, adding the kids kept asking whether a certain company or the city had sent them to do the work.

Someone also pulled up and got them another net from his car. The whole incident was "a cool experience," he said.

"One kid said he'd remember our names when he makes the league, and I replied I'd make him a suit for the draft day," he said.

Romita shared the story on his Facebook page, garnering hundreds of likes and comments of support. He's made a personal commitment that the court won't be without nets anymore.

"For just $8 and 10 minutes, everybody is happy," he said. "It's just incredible what a simple act can accomplish."

LEGISLATION

Conversion therapy ban passes

Ontario has given final approval to an NDP private member's bill that bans so-called conversion therapy for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children.

New Democrat Cheri DiNovo says therapists should not try to "fix" LGBTQ kids or subject them to what she calls unethical and abusive conversion therapy.

DiNovo says not only did Ontario allow conversation therapies to go on too long, the province actually covered the treatments under its health insurance plan, a practice that ends now.

Health Minister Eric Hoskins commended DiNovo for sponsoring the bill, saying conversion therapy has no place in Ontario, "where acceptance, respect and diversity are our most cherished strengths."

Hoskins says he'll work with health-care providers to make it clear that nobody should be "subject to this dangerous treatment," and that the government will protect people's right to be who they are.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DISCOVERY OLD SHIP RISES The remains of a 19th-century schooner were pulled Thursday from a development site near Bathurst Street and Lake Shore Boulevard. The ship was discovered last month as a construction crew dug into the ground for a new condo tower. Workers spent a week and a half excavating the ship, mostly by hand with picks and shovels. It will be on display at the Fort York Visitor Centre. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

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5 HOUSES YOU WISH YOU BOUGHT 100 YEARS AGO

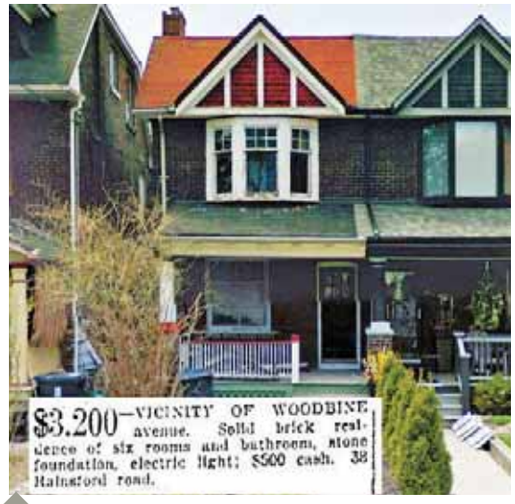
As the price of houses continues to surge in Toronto, it's amusing — and maybe a bit depressing — to compare the current prices of individual homes to how much they were offered for a century ago. To that end, we looked up classified ads from the Toronto Daily Star that offered houses for sale in 1915, calculated how much those prices would be currently (if inflation were the only factor), and compared that figure to the most recently reported selling price. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 268 Beech Ave.

For sale (1915): $3,450
Inflation-adjusted price (1915 — 2013): $69,396
Sold (2013): $675,000

2 336 Waverley Rd.

For sale (1915): $3,375
Inflation-adjusted price (1915 — 2012): $67,611
Sold (2012): $612,500


$3,200—VICINITY OF WOODBINE avenue. Solid brick residence of six rooms and bathroom, stone foundation, electric light; $500 cash. 38 Rainsford road.

3 38 Ransford Rd.

For sale (1915): $3,200; **Inflation-adjusted price** (1915 — 2014): $65,679; **Sold** (2014): $665,000

4 577 Indian Rd.

For sale (1915): $8,800
Inflation-adjusted price (1915 — 2015): $182,059
Sold (2015): $1,200,000

5 6 Columbine Ave.

For sale (1915): $3,700
Inflation-adjusted price (1915 — 2013): $74,425
Sold (2013): $842,700

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Once in a lifetime

It was a night of romance and randomness for 1,200 Torontonians who were paired up on blind dates to watch the musical Once at Ed Mirvish Theatre June 3. Singles were matched based primarily on their taste in musicals.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hayley Matheson, 21, waited for her date, but he was a no-show. Luckily, there was someone else in a similar situation who quickly joined her. "In a setting like this, it's very normal, I feel," she said of meeting the stranger.

"There are very few people who have the money to come to (theatre) because it's pretty pricey ... It's like 10 movies," Mike Nguyen, 21, said of the experience. He was matched with 23-year-old Rebecca McNeil.

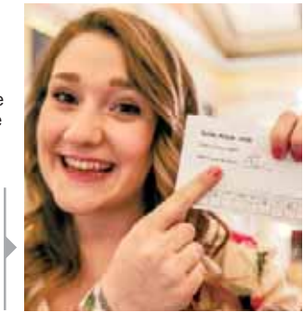
Nicolas Rodriguez, 24, was matched with 26-year-old Aman Rajwani. The pair hit it off and enjoyed the conversation. Although a little worried, they liked having the opportunity to give it a chance.

A love story about two people who meet by chance, Once was the perfect backdrop for the evening.

"If it's match it's a match," said 32-year-old Mike Alves. "If it's not then I meet a new person and there's going to be plenty of other singles here, too." Derek Darch, 26, said he came without huge expectations. "The questionnaire was kind of basic in terms of matching, but I definitely thought at least it's an experience and it's a great way to meet new people."

Zoe Ruth Fairless, 20, and 38-year-old Walter Picanco weren't matched, but met on stage. Both cared more about the performance than the blind date.

Nicole Baillie, 20, thought her date was kind of lame. "He was quizzing me on everything."



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‘Capitalize on the collective’

SMALL BUSINESS

Mega pop-up shop offering access to a multitude of merchandise

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

A vacant place in Parkdale is set to become Vacantful.

More than 40 local businesses are taking over the empty retail space at 1516 Queen St. W., and transforming it into a collective pop-up shop. For a whole month starting Friday, residents will have access to a multitude of merchandise — from clothing items to artifacts, handmade jewelry and food items — into this one place.

“This is pretty much a grassroots initiative,” said Ghazaleh Etezal, a business entrepreneur who founded the Vacantful project last year.

“Instead of having a pop-up where a vendor sets a shop within another shop, we have a collective new model with many vendors under the same roof.”

“The Everyday” mega pop-up is an attempt at helping small businesses minimize renting costs for a short period of time, and allows for a communal coordination of logistics, she said. While the already existing pop-ups are usually one brand, the new model facilitates buyers who can find a variety of products in one storefront, she said.

“Prices for commercial real estates are astronomical in any place,” she said.

In addition, the project has partnered with Vend, a point-of-sale provider, to process all vendors’ transactions through a single point of sale. This will allow vendors to keep track of their inventory without having to be physically present at the shop, said Etezal.

The project hopes to expand its reach, collaborating with the city’s BIAs and targeting mainly areas with high density and businesses that are mainly online-based, she said.

“We capitalize on the collective,” she said. “It’s an open platform that allows everyone to engage with different communities and complement each other.”

OPTIONS

Some other pop-up shops in Toronto:

- **Pop 404:** Short-term retail for creative works at 404 Adelaide St.
- **Eva’s Toronto Costumes:** Women’s clothing pop-up shop on the Esplanade.
- **Jade Garden Grocery:** Food pop-up shop known for good quality and low prices, on 1700 St. Clair Ave. W.
- **Oak and Fort:** Chic clothing pop-up shop in North York.

Ghazaleh Etezal stands in front of the Parkdale place that’s hosting The Everyday pop-up shop. CONTRIBUTED

FINES

Warning: Keep dog on leash

Leash your dog, or risk getting bitten by a $360 fine, the City of Toronto is telling pet owners.

The city announced Thursday that, while last summer, it held a public education and enforcement blitz, this year the focus will be on “citywide enforcement.”

In Toronto, all dogs outside have to be leashed unless they are on their owner’s property or in one of the city’s 57 leash-free parks.

“A dog is considered running at large if it is unleashed, off its owner’s property and not under its owner’s control,” the city said. “A fine of $360 can be issued for allowing a dog to run at large.”

Last year, enforcement officers investigated 829 reports of off-leash dogs and laid 161 charges. This year, so far, there have been 924 investigations and 39 people charged.

Other city rules prohibit dogs that have not been vaccinated, licensed and neutered from being in designated dog parts, and require owners to buy $25 annual licences for all dogs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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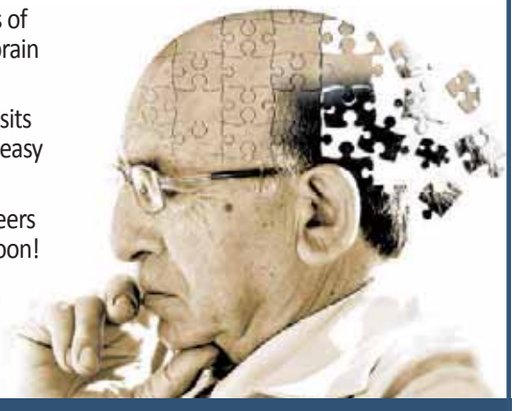

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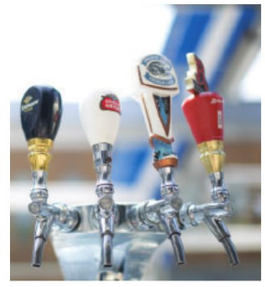
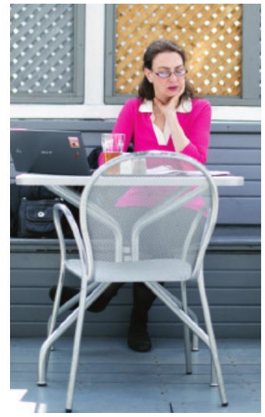
Sip, sit and sun

Metro's exploring some of Toronto's favourite haunts — and where better to start than a place with a lofty reputation? The Pilot has welcomed 71 years' worth of patrons and its rooftop patio, called the Flight Deck, is a spot where Hogtown history truly meets hops. **LIZ BEDDALL** METRO

METRO FAVOURITES





Manager Al Stuart, top, had his first beer at The Pilot when he was 15 and from that point on, aspired to own the establishment. While the venue can be a great place to relax, it's seen its share of high-profile — and sometimes rowdy — clientele. Diane Lane, Josh Brolin, Dustin Hoffman and elite members of the city's jazz community have been spotted on deck. And actor Colin Farrell was even escorted out one night after dancing on tables. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Retractable awnings mean summer showers won't send patrons running for cover. And, while there are plenty of on-tap offerings, there are plenty of standard and special cocktails to help you kick back as well. There's not really an aviation theme, so to speak, but, if you look hard enough, you'll spot a plane or two dotted around the decor. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

5 OTHER MUST-SEE PATIOS

Victory Cafe
(581 Markham St.)
The Annex hotspot has a large and leafy patio that wraps around the corner of its old Victorian digs.

Hemingway's
(142 Cumberland St.)
The Yorkville bar boasts a sprawling, multi-level rooftop patio that's a welcome reprieve from the neighbourhood's hustle and bustle.

Squirly's
(807 Queen St. W.)
Good food and great beer at a reasonable price. Also a good spot for hipster watching.

Allen's
(143 Danforth Ave)
The food's delicious and there's a big, beautiful tree that provides plenty of shade.

Reposado Bar & Lounge
(136 Ossington Ave.)
Great tequila, romantic back patio, and maybe — if you time it right — live jazz music from the stage inside floating out the back door.

Got something to say?

GET IN TOUCH

Metro wants to highlight your favourite park, beach, pool, market, playground, walking path or (fill in the blank).

Instagram your hot spot to @metronewsca or email it to angela.mullins@metronews.ca.

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TECHNICAL ISSUE

Bike Share has big call to make pre-Games

Bike Share has been forced to abandon plans to add 22 new stations in time for the Pan Am Games next month due to a technical issue that could mean the whole system will have to be either refurbished or replaced before it can expand.

The problem: Bike Share's stations are outdated hybrids, with software made by 8D and hardware made by PBSC.

Both companies now make their own full stations. Bike Share has three options: go with 8D and replace station hardware; go with PBSC and replace the software; or find another supplier, which could mean replacing all the existing stations.

Although it's logged more than 2.5 million rides, Bike Share is still the same size as its 2011 launch — 80 stations and 1,000 bikes.

But according to Marie Casista, head of Bike Share, the program's size is now an advantage because it will be less expensive to switch to a new, sustainable system. "Our future is looking brighter and better than it ever has," she said.

Though she admitted she was "disappointed" that expansion has been put off, Casista described the delay as "growing pains" and said she intends to order more than 20 stations this summer, with the goal of installing them in the spring.

Despite having 800,000 fewer residents than Toronto, Montreal's public bike system is more than five times the size of Bike Share. Bixi Montreal has expanded steadily since it launched six years ago with 300 stations and 3,000 bikes, and by the end of 2014, it had 460 stations and 5,200 bikes. Last year, 23 stations were added, and the system now covers an area of 95 square kilometres.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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El Furniture Warehouse bar has said its Instagram post was 'in poor taste.' ELIZABETH BEDDALL/METRO

Bar sorry for vulgar Jenner post

LGBT

Instagram pic condemned for being transphobic

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

A Toronto bar has apologized and denied any hint of transphobia after posting a vulgar photo making fun of Caitlyn Jenner on Instagram.

Someone who works at El Furniture Warehouse, a bar on Bloor Street in The Annex, posted a photo that shows a woman from behind with male genitalia showing through her underwear. It was captioned: "The back cover of Vanity Fair," a reference to Jenner's recent photo spread.

In an apology posted later, the bar said it's active in the LGBT community and is hosting a Pride Toronto event to combat homophobia.

Pride executive director Mathieu Chantelois said the event is not sanctioned by the organization, which is "greatly troubled" by the bar's post.

Before issuing the apology Thursday, the person operating El Furniture's Instagram account called someone who complained a "loser," writing "sorry it doesn't meet your high moral standards."

Venue co-owner Sean Young said the bar's always had "an adult-style edgy kind of account." While the image was "topical," he said, it was "in poor taste." It's since been removed. He wouldn't, however, call it "transphobic."

"There is no transphobia," Young said. "We don't have one transphobic member of our staff."

IN BRIEF

Toronto man arrested in Montreal on murder charge

Montreal police say they've arrested a Toronto man who was being sought on a first-degree murder charge in his mother's death.

Manuel Couture says 25-year-old Justin Scott was arrested this afternoon in Notre-Dame-de-Grace, a west-end neighbourhood.

He will be transferred to Toronto police. The body of 65-year-old Linda Scott was found Tuesday afternoon in an apartment she shared with her son near Danforth and Woodbine avenues. According to police, there were visible signs of trauma on the body. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caws for alarm: Birds dive-bombing woman

VANCOUVER, B.C.

Crows attack same person one year later

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

A Vancouver woman can't keep count of the number of crows that have dive-bomb attacked her in the past two years.

Sophia Lindgren says she is almost frightened to walk outside after the black birds have aggressively attacked her at least eight times in different parts of the city.

"They dive-bomb at me," she told Metro. "It goes back and forth and goes 'Caw! Caw!'"

The first attack happened in May last year when Lindgren was walking out of her home.

Then it happened again in Kitsilano, Strathcona and Richmond. After nesting season ended, Lindgren forgot about the attacks, but last week, she said it started again.

A sign warns pedestrians about crow attacks in the 800-block of Richards Street in Vancouver, B.C. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

In one attack, she said a crow scratch left her bleeding. Although she wasn't seriously injured, the repeated incidents are becoming "freaky," she said.

Derek Matthews, chairman of the Vancouver Aviation Research Centre, said it is possible that at some point Lindgren did do something that has crows holding a grudge against her.

"If she flapped at them or shooed them away, it's possible she's been marked," he said.

Matthews pointed to several studies by University of Washington biologist John Marzluff who found crows recognize and remember individual human faces.

Some experts theorize that when large numbers of crows congregate in so-called "roosts," the birds vocally share information. Often that knowledge is about food sources, but the birds could also warn others about predators and other threats.

During nesting season, Matthews said crows go to great lengths to protect their nest. They spend up to three days incubating their eggs after building their nests, and another four weeks or more feeding their young until they fledge.

When a human or animal gets too close to the nest, Matthews said crows will do everything they can to protect their young.

He recommends people walk quickly away from the area if a crow is dive-bombing them. If they get scratched, he said there's no need to fret, as the birds can't transmit diseases.

CSIS

Anti-terror efforts get funding boost

Prime Minister Stephen Harper played up his tough-on-terrorism credentials Thursday, announcing a trifecta of measures aimed at beefing up the country's ability to thwart violent jihad.

The measures, some previously announced in the budget, include more money for Canada's spy agency and more scrutiny of foreign visitors.

Under the new measures, the federal government will commit $137 million more over five years to Canada's Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS), along with $41 million more a year afterward.

The additional funding, Harper said, would allow CSIS to beef up its frontline capacity to counter terrorist threats and activities.

Some experts, however, have argued the earmarked money simply isn't much given the current threat environment, especially with legislation giving the agency more power to stop Canadians from joining terror groups abroad, disrupt bank transactions, and secretly interfere with radical websites.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Senator aims to get ad spending disclosed

Federal political parties are being challenged to publicly disclose how much money they're spending on advertising during the unregulated pre-election season. Sen. Dennis Dawson says a spending free-for-all makes a mockery of the limits imposed during election campaigns.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Legault urges against changes to gun-registry laws

Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault warns gun owners may never know if their records have been secreted by the RCMP once the government creates what she calls a "black hole." Legault is pleading to have the gun-registry changes stripped from the budget bill.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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GHANA

Death toll climbs in gas station explosion

The death toll from a huge gas station explosion and flooding in Ghana's capital has more than doubled to 150 people, the president said Thursday night.

Dozens of people had sought shelter at the gas station and in nearby shops in central Accra to escape the torrential rains at the time of Wednesday night's blast.

Flooding swept fuel being stored at the station into a nearby fire, triggering the explosion that also set ablaze neighbouring buildings, officials said.

The West African nation will observe three days of mourning with flags flying at half-staff, and the government will allocate about $12 million for relief operations and to repair damaged infrastructure, President John Dramani Mahama told journalists before heading into an emergency meeting.

Before Mahama's announcement, the death toll stood at 73.

TV footage earlier Thursday showed corpses being piled into the back of a pickup truck and other charred bodies trapped amid the debris. Floodwaters around the site hampered rescue and recovery efforts.

Officials at the nearby 37 Military Hospital said its morgue had reached capacity.

Mahama visited the blast site during the day, calling the death toll "catastrophic" and offering condolences to families of the victims.

"Steps will be taken to ensure that disastrous floods and their attendant deaths do not occur again," he said.

Michael Plange, who lives a few blocks away, said many people had taken shelter under a shed at the station from the rain and were hit by the explosion.

The flooding "caused the diesel and petrol to flow away from the gas station and a fire from a nearby house led to the explosion," said Billy Anaglate, spokesman for Ghana's national fire service.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Dec. 24, 1997, file photo, soldiers prepare to destroy a ballistic SS-19 missile in the yard of the largest former Soviet military rocket base in Vakulenchuk, Ukraine. The Obama administration is weighing a range of aggressive responses to Russia's alleged violation of a Cold War-era nuclear missile treaty. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

U.S. weighs missile use vs. Russia

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

Aggressive response in Europe is on the table

The Obama administration is weighing a range of aggressive responses to Russia's alleged violation of a Cold War-era nuclear treaty, including deploying land-based missiles in Europe that could pre-emptively destroy the Russian weapons.

This "counterforce" option is among possibilities the administration is considering as it reviews its entire policy toward Russia in light of Moscow's military intervention in Ukraine, its annexation of Crimea and other actions the U.S. deems confrontational in Europe and beyond.

The options go so far as one implied — but not stated explicitly — that would improve the ability of U.S. nuclear weapons to destroy military targets on Russian territory.

It all has a certain Cold War ring, even if the White House ultimately decides to continue tolerating Russia's alleged flight-testing of a ground-launched cruise missile with a range prohibited by the treaty.

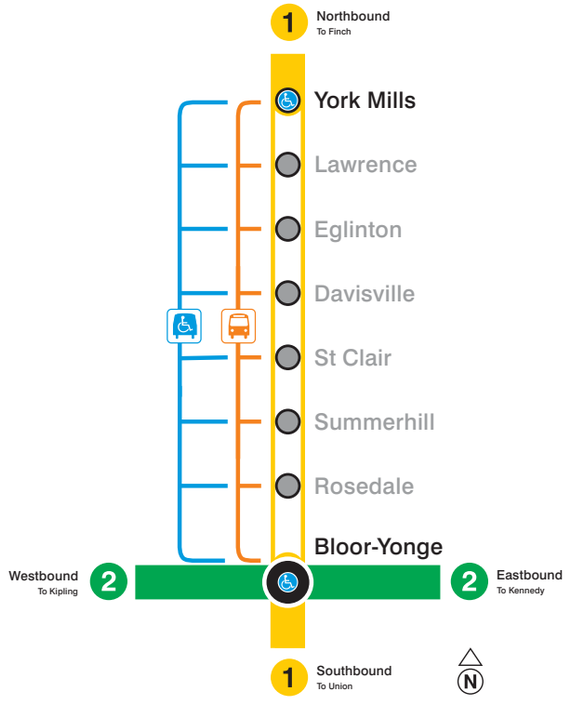
Russia denies violating the treaty and has, in turn, claimed violations by the United States in erecting missile defences.

It is unclear whether Russia has actually deployed the suspect missile or whether Washington would make any military move if the Russians stopped short of deployment. For now, administration officials say they prefer to continue trying to talk Moscow into treaty compliance.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend closures

1 Bloor-Yonge to York Mills
June 6 and 7, 2015



For alternative routes and detailed service information, call 416-393-4636 or visit ttc.ca

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

DO YOU HAVE PANIC DISORDER?

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TTC MIDWAY IN FIVE-YEAR MISSION

ANDY BYFORD
CEO
TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

This month marks the exact half-way point in our five-year journey to modernize the TTC - infrastructure, process and culture - from top to bottom.

While there have been a few setbacks and adverse headlines, I am confident that, overall, we are making good progress. The acid test for me is what customers think, and feedback has been pretty positive in that regard.

Here's a quick progress report for each modernization theme.

Infrastructure renewal is dominated by major projects, such as the PRESTO smartcard, which will be implemented across TTC by the end of 2016 – a year earlier than originally planned. Before this summer's Pan Am and Parapan Am games, 26 stations will have been fitted with PRESTO equipment, and all streetcars will be similarly equipped by the end of this year.

We continue the painstaking work of renewing the signalling system on Line 1 Yonge-University to enable automatic train operation, due by the end of 2019. Meanwhile, good progress is being made on the delayed Spadina subway extension of Line 1 into York Region, now that we have private partners on board to help us complete the project.

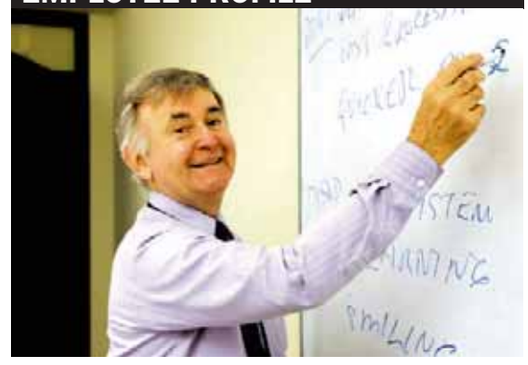
Rollout of our new streetcar fleet remains frustratingly slow due to production difficulties at Bombardier, but delivery will accelerate from the fall to enable further conversion of routes to these beautiful new vehicles, while their new home, Leslie Barns, is nearing completion.

Processes are being modernized across the company to make them more efficient, customer-focused and fit for purpose. This includes a review of all surface route schedules to improve service reliability and an all-out focus on getting basic operating disciplines right on the subway to cut the number of delays. Our new timetable on the subway is already delivering a big improvement in punctuality.

Finally, we continue to work on the prevailing culture within the company to make every interaction with the TTC consistently excellent and to make you feel valued as a customer. While there remains a lot of room for improvement, I feel we are making progress as evidenced by an increasing number of customer compliments about our employees.

The next two and a half years will see the rollout of new service, thanks to the increased budget that we were able to secure this year. With this additional service, and with the foundations that we have already laid, the TTC is on course to getting back to being the best transit service in North America and one that is worthy of your loyal patronage.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE



Name:	Position:	Years of Service:
Walter Haluza	Senior System Analyst	45

I started working for the TTC as a summer student in the Payroll Department. This gave me the opportunity to learn the functions of a computer, leading me to my current job in the Information Technology Department. My job has always been a growing and learning experience, and it's great to know people can trust me. It's a pleasure working for this company and I'm going to miss my co-workers and job very much when I retire!

PORTION OF LINE 1 CLOSED THIS WEEKEND FOR SIGNAL WORK

This weekend, on Sat., June 6 and Sun., June 7, there will be no service on Line 1 between Bloor and York Mills stations due to scheduled signal work. Frequent replacement buses will operate between Bloor and York Mills stations. Wheel-Trans buses will be available for customers who need them.

The commuter parking lot at York Mills Station will be closed both Saturday and Sunday.

The signal upgrade is part of the TTC's commitment to modernization. The existing signals, relays, wiring and cabling equipment, much of which is 60 years old, need replacing as their frequent failure significantly impacts service. This necessary signal and track work will result in a more reliable service.

Alternate routes to the subway service on Line 1 include:

- 96 Wilson bus from York Mills Station to Wilson Station
- 52 Lawrence West bus from Lawrence Station to Lawrence West Station
- 32 Eglinton West from Eglinton Station to Eglinton West Station
- 512 St Clair streetcar from St Clair Station to St Clair West Station

Regular subway service resumes on Mon., June 8, at 6 a.m.

Weekly Customer Service Report Week ending June 3, 2015	Actual % Target %	
1 2 3 4 Subway Deliver a punctual service	97% 97%	✓
Bus Deliver reliable headway	60% 65%	✗
Streetcar Deliver reliable headway	64% 70%	✗

TTC REMOVING SUNDAY-ONLY STREETCAR STOPS

A reminder, the TTC will eliminate all 42 Sunday-only streetcar stops this Sunday, June 7. The decision to remove the stops was made after consultation with the public and City Councillors, and was approved by the TTC Board in May, 2014.

Sunday stops, which were established in the 1920s to reduce walking distance to nearby churches, are too close to existing adjacent stops. To improve service, transportation best practices state that streetcar stops should be 250 to 350 metres apart, and no less than 200 metres to one another. Sunday stops are, on average, about 100 metres from an adjacent regular stop. As well, for safety reasons, the TTC is adjusting all streetcar stops to ensure they are located at signalized intersections or crosswalks.

TTC 504 BACK TO REGULAR ROUTING WITH OPENING OF KING BRIDGE

The City of Toronto has completed structural repairs to the King St. bridge at River St. As a result, the Toronto Transit Commission's 504 King and 503 Kingston Rd service returned to normal routing this morning at 5 a.m.

During the bridge closure, streetcar service on the 504 and 503 diverted via Queen St. E., between Parliament St. and River St.

The TTC thanks its customers for their patience while the City's bridge work was being done.

HOW TO CONTACT US:
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FIND OUT MORE:
Visit ttc.ca for details about routes, schedules and planned construction.
Facebook.com/TorontoTransitCommission
Youtube.com/OfficialTTCchannel

TCONNECT WI-FI:
Free Wi-Fi is now available at select TTC subway stations. Visit tconnect.ca or ttc.ca for details.

Bell boss' remark

President faces social media backlash over comments on VPN use

The new head of Bell Media is facing backlash on social media after saying it should be socially unacceptable for Canadians to use technological tricks to access U.S. Netflix.

Mary Ann Turcke told a Toronto telecom conference on Wednesday that using virtual private networks (VPN) to view content not available in Can-

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SASKATCHEWAN

No oil-rate review: Premier

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall is using the NDP's pending royalty review in Alberta to pitch his province to the oil industry.

In a speech to an industry audience in Weyburn this week, Wall promised his government has no plans to review the rates it charges oil companies in Saskatchewan.

With oil prices currently hovering around $60 US a barrel, the industry doesn't need any instability, Wall said.

"We like where royalties are a t , " he told reporters at the Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Recognition Awards. "We want to tell the industry, whatever may be happening in the rest of the country, they can expect ... stability here."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VIDEO GAMES LEGENDARY TITLES ENTER HALL OF FAME These six video games were inducted Thursday into the World Video Game Hall of Fame at The Strong Museum in Rochester, N.Y. The inductees include Pong, the frontier 1972 table-tennis game, and the incredibly popular Doom, which in 1993 helped fuel the violent-games debate. Joining them are Super Mario Bros., Pac-Man, Tetris and World of Warcraft. BETHANY MOSHER, THE STRONG MUSEUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LABOUR

Gawker writers unite

Employees of gossip and news site Gawker Media say they have voted to join the Writers Guild of America, making it the first digital media outlet to organize.

In a web posting, Gawker writers said they voted 75 per cent to 25 per cent to join the guild. The Writers Guild said 90 per cent of eligible voters cast ballots.

While no digital media sites have been unionized, The Associated Press, The New York Times and other newspaper staffers have union representation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Feds file tariff request against U.S. with WTO

Canada has filed a request to impose more than $3 billion a year in tariffs on the U.S. The federal government has asked the World Trade Organization to authorize measures on a range of U.S. goods. Canada and Mexico are fighting U.S. meat-labelling rules. THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 79.97¢ (-0.33¢)

TSX 15,019.39 (-135.29)

OIL $58.00 US (-$1.64)

GOLD $1,175.20 US (-$9.70)

NATURAL GAS: $2.626 US (-0.8¢)
DOW JONES: 17,905.58 (-170.69)

upsets Netflix users

ada should become taboo.

"It has to become socially unacceptable to admit to another human being that you are VPNing into U.S. Netflix, like throwing garbage out your car window — you just don't do it," she said.

"We have to get engaged and tell people they are stealing. When we were young and made the error of swiping candy bars at the checkout of the grocery store, what did our parents do? They marched us back in, humiliated us, told us to apologize to the nice lady and likely scolded us on the way home."

COURTESY BCE.CA

> **It has to become socially unacceptable to admit to another human being that you are VPNing into U.S. Netflix, like throwing garbage out your car window — you just don't do it.**
> Bell Media President Mary Ann Turcke

Turcke, who recently replaced Kevin Crull as the company's president, recalled reprimanding her 15-year-old daughter over the teen's use of a VPN to watch the American version of Netflix.

She said the girl was told she was stealing, and that it was like stealing anything else.

Turcke criticized newspapers for publishing how-to articles she said were "educating the masses on how to get around copyright law."

Many scoffed at her comments on social media, calling them out-of-touch and unrealistic.

"What is this, opposite day? The only people not using a VPN to use Netflix are those who don't know how," one tweeted.

"I gladly do it, and lots of us did it when working for Bell. Offer choice or I'll choose for myself," wrote another.

A few sided with Turcke, accusing those who defended the practice of making excuses for their bad behaviour.

"You can rationalize accessing foreign versions of Netflix all you want. The law is on Bell's side, and your skirting these restrictions isn't the equivalent of Rosa Parks," one online commenter wrote.

VPNs allow users to mask the location of their IP address, circumventing geographic restrictions on online content.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

REAL ESTATE

Condo boom slows amid rental surge

For the past two decades, developers in Canada's hottest real-estate markets have busily erected shiny new condominium towers while construction of rental buildings has stagnated.

But with the appetite for condos beginning to wane and sky-high home prices leaving home ownership out of reach for many, developers and institutional investors in Toronto and Vancouver are increasingly setting their sights on rental units.

$1.1M

The average price of a detached home topped $1.1 million in Toronto last month.

"It's a significant shift," says Shaun Hildebrand, vice-president of condo research firm Urbanation.

The firm says there are eight rental buildings currently under construction and 37 more proposed in the Toronto area, containing a total of more than 11,000 units. That's a nearly 75 per cent increase over what has been developed over the past decade, says Hildebrand.

Some Toronto projects that were originally planned as condo towers will be built as rental buildings instead, including Urbancorp's Kingsclub condo complex on King Street West and a proposed 49-storey tower at Bloor and Sherbourne called The Selby.

The new development proposed at the site of Toronto's iconic Honest Ed's store will contain no condos — only rental units.

In Vancouver, more than 1,000 dedicated rental units have been constructed each year over the past few years, according to data from the city.

"There just needs to be more rental stock because there's such a demand for it," says Kevin Hoffman, senior vice-president at Aquilini Development and Construction Inc.

The average price of a detached home topped $1.1 million in Toronto and $1.4 million in Vancouver last month.

That's left many potential buyers stuck in the rental market, keeping vacancy rates low and pushing rent prices higher. In Toronto, condo rents have climbed 15 per cent over the past five years, said Hildebrand.

"That's what investors and developers were waiting for — the big jump in rents," said Hildebrand.

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ENVIRONMENT

Tims nixes Enbridge ads

Tim Hortons has brewed up controversy for its decision to yank ads by pipeline giant Enbridge Inc. from its in-store screens.

On Thursday morning, the coffee-and-doughnut purveyor responded to complaints about the ads on Twitter, telling individual users: "We value your feedback and the Enbridge advertisements are no longer airing on 'Tims TV.'"

But the tempest in a Timbit only grew as oil-industry supporters lashed out against the move.

The top-trending Twitter hashtag on Thursday afternoon in Canada was #BoycottTims.

Calgary Conservative MPs like Jason Kenney, Michelle Rempel and Joan Crockatt took the chain to task on Twitter.

"I'm proud to represent thousands of constituents who work for Enbridge & other CDN energy companies," Kenney, the defence minister, tweeted.

Tim Hortons declined to comment.

Enbridge is the dominant shipper of oilsands crude and plans to build the contentious Northern Gateway pipeline to the West Coast.

"We have enjoyed working with them and respect their decision," said Enbridge spokesman Graham White in an email.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
WEEKEND, June 5-7, 2015

Happy face/Sad face

From **chimp chefs** to **zigzagging Zambonis** ,
Metro weighs in on the news making headlines this week

Man learns not to drink at the rink

A North Dakota man who admitted he drove a Zamboni drunk was sentenced to nine days and fined $1,500 US this week. Steven Anderson, 27, had a blood alcohol level four times the legal limit when arrested in January at a girls' hockey game in Fargo. Witnesses said he was driving erratically and crashing into the boards. The judge didn't buy the argument that a Zamboni isn't a vehicle. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nutrition app could give foodies #TMI

A new technology could give social media mavens who like to share #brunch and #foodporn pictures a rude awakening. Google's artificial intelligence prototype Im2Calories can teach you a lot about your food — if you want to know. It analyzes food photos and estimates how many calories are on your plate. The program measures the depth of each pixel, picks up on patterns and calculates your meal's size relative to objects like condiments and cutlery. CBC.CA

If you give a chimp an oven...

A new study has shed light on how our hominid ancestors first learned to cook. Harvard psychologists gave chimpanzees an oven-like device but didn't show them how to use it. The animals learned to place raw potato in the "chimp microwave," shake it, wait, and get a tasty, cooked treat—showing off skills like planning and delayed gratification. Real fire wasn't used because chimps still don't understand "Careful: Hot." NPR

Reading, writing and revitalizing

A project at two Ontario First Nations schools is drawing praise for converting reluctant readers. When it began in 2010, 13 per cent of Grade 3 kids were reading at grade level. By 2014, 67 per cent were. The number of special needs students fell from 45 per cent to 19 — raising questions about whether learning problems or inadequate teaching were really to blame. The secret formula? 100 minutes reading and writing per day, every day. MACLEAN'S

Finally, technology has found a cure for thirst

THE KOHLER REPORT
Rebecca Kohler

I've been parched for years, and I've never been sure what to do about it. But now a crowdfunding venture has raised more than $110,000 to help develop a new product called HidrateMe — a smart water bottle that tells you when to drink water. Thank God!

To let you know it's time to drink, the 24-ounce HidrateMe bottle glows — kind of like a wet lantern — until you take a sip. The container connects to your smartphone via Bluetooth (unfortunately there is no Ethernet option). After installing the HidrateMe app, it will ask you for personal information like your height and weight (it already knows your IQ is low: you purchased the product). Based on these details and factoring in your environment — temperature, elevation and humidity — HidrateMe calculates your "water goals," for how much water you should be drinking and when.

"Water goals"! What a fun term. At first it made me think about people in poor countries and their water goals. Goals like "finding water" and "drinking water that doesn't cause me to poo my pants." Then I realized, "Wait! This is about my water goals! Personal water goals."

After some soul searching, I came to the conclusion that while my water goals seem far away during a hangover, I feel like I achieve them on a day-to-day basis, based on the fact that I'm currently alive.

So do I need this bossy gadget? Sure, it's flashy and all — my body's "drink-water-now" mechanism (thirst) is kind of boring and passé and so 1999 (BC). And I can think of some fun, alternate uses for the HidrateMe bottle: filling your boss's with vodka, or, instead of using it as a glowing water bottle, using it as a flashlight for thirsty people …

I'm being hard on HidrateMe, because I think it's gimmicky. Sure, it'll tell me when to drink, but I'm still in charge. I constantly have a glass of water on my desk and I constantly don't drink from it. Human nature trumps "smart" gadgets.

A glowing bottle might help me for a few days, but like with all the self-help apps I've downloaded (quit smoking, run faster, Tinder), I'll just start ignoring it.

My body's 'drink-water-now' mechanism (thirst) is kind of boring and passé and so 1999 (BC).

I won't be surprised if, within a few months of launching, HidrateMe apps all over the world will be under the impression that their users have succumbed to the effects dehydration and died.

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The new definition of masculinity won't be womansplained

My little brother came for a visit last week.

These days, though, he's more of a strapping young guy in his mid-20s.

Watching his evolution — from the boy who ran with windmill legs to a truck-driving carpenter — has been fascinating and, sometimes, worrying.

I've long felt deeply uneasy about the modern ideal of masculinity and its effect on him. Our culture glorifies the stoic man: in control, never vulnerable physically or emotionally. The consummate provider and leader.

But why hear that from me, when you can hear it from Donovan McKenzie, founder of In the Heart of a Man, a new Toronto-based organization that is fighting to redefine masculinity.

Tall, muscled and deep-voiced, McKenzie looks like a tough guy. And for years, that's what he tried to be, until he realized that striving to constantly "be a man" left him depressed, even suicidal.

"I grew up as this big black guy that was supposed to be strong. I grew up in a neighbourhood where it was really taboo to say you're sad," he told me. "I always heard in my head, 'Man up.' Men aren't supposed to feel this way."

"Imagine if there's something I could turn to, so I didn't have to hold this all in my heart?" he added.

He's spoken to young men in schools and prisons about embracing their feelings and accepting themselves. He runs a Humans of New York-style photo blog about men and an online community.

"Because of my story, I think it's time to have that outlet," he said.

UBC's dean of education, Dr. Blye Frank, would likely agree. Frank, who studies the links between masculinity and men's education and health, argues that men engage in risky behaviours to show their manliness. That can lead to higher rates of accidental death and suicide, even cancer, than women.

The new definition of masculinity remains up for grabs.

It might mean, as it did for writer Navneet Alang, unlearning the sexism he grew up with.

Even so, "I'm not sure I've gotten to the point of what an idealized form of masculinity might be," Alang told me.

As for my brother, he says masculinity means courage, restraint, and sacrifices "for yourself and your family."

Whatever the definition, though, it won't be figured out by women like me. We need womansplaining as much as mansplaining these days.

It will come from Frank, Alang, McKenzie, and my little/big brother.

And, I hope, soon.

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Your essential daily news

No life after grad: Degrassi ending after 14 seasons

I Spy a McCarthy blockbuster

REVIEW

Director Feig reunites with Bridesmaids actress in new comedy

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse

I used to find Melissa McCarthy frustrating.

Director Paul Feig called her "one of the funniest people in the world." Her husband, actor Ben Falcone, said she "will do anything to get a laugh," but her tendency to go for the easy gag often put me in the mind of Will Ferrell in his Blades of Glory nadir.

Thanks to a string of hits like Bridesmaids, Identity Thief, The Heat and Tammy — and an $809 million box office total — McCarthy is a rarity in Hollywood: a female comedy superstar.

Everyone agrees she is a skilled comic actor who amplifies the funny in good movies and elevates the jokes in lesser scripts but the latter is why I used to find her exasperating. Much of her recent work — this weekend's very funny Spy notwithstanding — has relied on her major personality to magnify minor material.

There's no arguing with the kind of financial success she has enjoyed but critical accolades have been elusive. The Wall Street Journal, for instance, said of Tammy, "The movie's principal intention is to make you laugh at a loser, and revel in scenes from which polite people would instinctively turn away."

Bridesmaids was her flashpoint, the film that broke her out of the TV sidekick treadmill. As Megan — imagine a feral, female Guy Fieri — she stole the show out from under other, better-known stars like Kristen Wiig and earned an Oscar nomination. It's a wonderful, weird performance that hinted at great things to come.

But aside from a few inspired moments she has not made good on the promise of Bridesmaids. Her work has come to rely too heavily on a stock character, the obnoxious loser with a heart of gold buried beneath a thick shell of one-liners and non sequiturs.

"I've played a lot of characters who are very vocal, very aggressive," she told me last year. "For the women I've played there is a reason why they are so ballsy and it is nice when you see the crack in the veneer and you realize, 'It's part of their insecurity. They stay loud so nobody yells at them.'"

It's an interesting character breakdown but one that played itself out by the end of 2013's Identity Thief when, I believe, she became infected with Will Ferrell disease.

There was a time when Ferrell could do no wrong. At least that's what the directors of Blades of Glory, Land of the Lost and Semi-Pro thought. Popular with audiences, he was allowed to run riot in a series of so-so films resulting in the bleak middle period of his career where manic energy replaced humour in his films.

McCarthy suffers from the same affliction. She is funny, she knows how to deliver a line, but in Identity Thief, The Heat and Tammy she's off the chain, Ferrelling her way through underwritten scripts.

Ferrell turned things around and so has McCarthy. In St. Vincent she took a step away from her well-established comedic persona to deliver laughs and show her dramatic range.

Her latest film Spy is also a welcome return to form. Paired once again with director Feig, the movie offers up the best of both worlds — a funny, smart script and a director who knows how to maximize her talents. As Susan Cooper, a CIA computer-analyst-turned-international-field-agent-on-a-mission-of-revenge, she's likeable, funny and most importantly, reined in.

McCarthy kicks ass as a top CIA analyst turned spy in a new comedy by Bridesmaids director Feig. PHOTO COURTESY 20TH CENTURY FOX

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Spy ★★★★
Entourage ★★
Hungry Hearts ★★★½
Insidious: Chapter 3 ★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

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White meat, fries and lots of spies

Columnist Jessica Allen in her early undercover days.
CONTRIBUTED

NOSTALGIA

Swiss Chalet chicken dinner reminds Allen of childhood spy games

THE TV DINNER

Jessica Allen

Nearly every Saturday night during my youth, our family of four would eat at the Swiss Chalet on Dundas Street in London, Ont. Right before we'd see a movie and just after we ordered four quarter chicken dinners (fries, white meat), I'd ask to use the washroom.

While it was not out of the ordinary in the '80s to spot an eight-year-old visit the washroom unattended, slightly more curious was seeing that child form a gun with her hand while slinking down the stairs because she thought she was a spy.

And not just any spy on their way to gather intelligence from the loo, but James Bond himself.

It was the fault of my folks for allowing me, from a very early age, to see Bond films — which occasionally led to awkward conversations: "Dad, what's an 'Octopussy'?"

Although it never occurred to me that on account of my gender I couldn't be James Bond, I'm happy to see a woman star in a spy film, albeit a spoof of the genre.

In Spy, which hits theatres on June 5, Melissa McCarthy plays a desk-bound CIA analyst thrown into the field as an undercover agent in order to prevent a global disaster. The film reunites her with Bridesmaids director Paul Feig.

My love of washrooms doesn't end with espionage: I vividly remember the post-food-poisoning epic washroom scene in Bridesmaids, which managed to surpass Dumb and Dumber's finely tuned aria of toilet noise.

However, I wasn't eating alone so neither film was an option. Take-out Swiss Chalet (white meat, fries), however, was uncontested.

"What about a Bourne movie?" I asked my partner Simon.

"The Bourne movies you've seen a hundred times? What about Barry Lyndon?"

"Not that Kubrick pic again."

Then I remembered the Swiss Chalet waitresses' uniforms back when they still wanted to emphasize the "Swiss" bits.

As my brother and I sipped Kitty Cocktails, we'd gaze up at ample bosoms. So Simon and I watched Martin Scorsese's 1993 adaptation of The Age of Innocence, obviously.

White wine replaced the Kitty Cocktail but the quarter chicken dinner was just as I remembered. The corsage cleavage, however, was a little flat.

Edith Wharton's Gilded Age novel is about gender restriction, something critics think limit McCarthy.

By repeatedly playing the "hot mess," she's pigeonholing herself, they say.

It's a false assumption that if you conquer the gender divide on the screen, it will make the gender divide in the real world more palatable.

Besides, I don't want to watch McCarthy take a dump in a sink because she's a woman. I want to see her do it because she's one of the few genuinely hilarious people on screen, like Buster Keaton before her, who's mastered the art of physical comedy.

McCarthy's mission in Spy is to save the world. With all due respect to her bowels, I hope she never stops.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

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STREAMING

Working with Wachowskis Daryl Hannah's dream job

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Life

When Daryl Hannah heard the team behind The Matrix and Cloud Atlas were doing a Netflix series, she was sold. The fact the Wachowskis' mind-bending Sense8, which launches Friday on Netflix, deals with how humans can be more connected and compassionate was icing on the cake.

How was this project first explained to you?

It wasn't. I heard from the casting director that Lana and Andy Wachowski were doing an original series and they were looking for a character called Mr. Whispers, and did I have any ideas about that character — and maybe I could even come in because they were thinking about casting that character in a more transgender or androgynous way.

So I went in to read for Mr. Whisper's role, and then they said, "We'd like you for another role, Angel" — which there wasn't even a description of at that point. I just wanted to do it because of the Wachowskis, and then when I found out the themes they discuss about interconnectedness and the similarities that we share, the boundaries that they push, I was really just over the moon.

Daryl Hannah in Sense8.
MURRAY CLOSE/NETFLIX

How is it to get back into the science fiction realm?

I wouldn't really call it the science fiction realm. I mean, it's fantastical, for sure, but it's set in a very real world and present day, and there are no spaceships flying around or anything like that. But I do think incorporating a supernatural or fantastical element allows us to be taken places that we might not be as comfortable going in just a very real setting alone.

How many of the nine filming locations did you go to?

Nine cities in eight countries. I went to all of them. When I'm standing in Nairobi, I'm standing in Nairobi. And it feels that way when you see it. Even though it's physically hard to see CGI and green screen stuff, you can feel it.

It seems like a production Netflix is suited to support.

I think this only could happen on something like Netflix. It couldn't exist anywhere else. It couldn't exist with the advertisers, sponsors and the censorship of television. It couldn't happen in movies because they're too expensive these days. So it really is the only place that something like this could evolve.

INTERVIEW

The Entourage star talks fame and his not-so-alter ego

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Life

Adrian Grenier vs. Vincent Chase

Hot, successful actor Adrian Grenier plays Vincent Chase — a hot, successful actor — in the Entourage movie, out this week. CONTRIBUTED

You would think life in Hollywood could be a bit awkward when you're best known for playing one the biggest (fictional) movie stars in the world, but Adrian Grenier insists his Entourage character, Vincent Chase, hasn't cast a shadow over his own career.

"I mean, I think it's a failure of imagination if you start to let your successes bog you down," said Grenier. "If I have to work harder to convince people that I'm more than the character or I have other things up my sleeve, then so be it."

In fact, Grenier made peace with his fictional alter ego a long time ago — for self-preservation if for nothing else.

"We're sort of living vicariously through each other, comfortably sharing the same space," he said. "When people call me Vince, I answer. I don't try to correct people. Because I am Vince to many people. I mean, even blurring the lines as much as the fact that Vince was Aquaman and in real life I do a lot of ocean work. I am Aquaman in real life, in a way."

Of course, there really is an Aquaman coming — to be directed by Furious 7's James Wan, from the same studio that released Entourage — but that one will star Jason Momoa, not Vincent Chase. Or Adrian Grenier. And just in case you were wondering, Grenier made no effort at all to get a shot at the superhero role that was such a success for Vinny Chase.

"I think that would've been too silly," he said. "I mean, if James Cameron was directing it I might be into it."

The Entourage film finds Vince a few years removed from the series' triumphant finale, a hugely successful and newly divorced movie star who now wants to direct his first feature — a plot point Grenier, a director himself, had a hand in crafting.

"Vince wanting to direct was part of what I was pushing for. I wanted to step up the character and allow him to evolve into that next stage of his career," said Grenier. "But for the most part Doug [Ellin] borrows from a lot of our real lives and also from what's happening out there in the zeitgeist."

Of course, Grenier has earned a unique view of the entertainment industry thanks to eight seasons and a movie spent playing Vince, and he insists the show's depiction of Hollywood is not as exaggerated as some make it out to be.

> **We're sort of living vicariously through each other, comfortably sharing the same space.**
> Adrian Grenier

"It's pretty realistic. It reflects a truth, a reality in Hollywood, certainly, but also in a culture that puts fame and fortune and conspicuous consumption at the front," he said.

"It's wish-fulfillment fantasy, but at the same time it has something that's special about friendship and loyalty. And really it gives all the tools and guidelines on how to survive that world."

That loyalty bit — Vince's lifelong pals that make up his entourage — is key, he explained.

"I don't think it would be as popular of a show if it was only just the indulgence. That sounds like it would be a gossip show or something," said Grenier. "This is so much more."

"It's about the characters."

Chriqui busts out of the boys' club

It's not easy being a female character in the hyper-male world of Entourage, but somehow Emmanuelle Chriqui's Sloan has managed to come out unscathed. And, she insists, the training has been invaluable in real life.

Emmanuelle Chriqui plays Sloan in the Entourage series and film. CONTRIBUTED

The Entourage world can be pretty testosterone-heavy. How do you approach Sloan's perspective within that?
You just have to approach whatever given situation with complete authenticity, which is all I can do as far as Sloan is concerned. There might be things that morally I don't agree with or that Emmanuelle would never forgive, but we're acting. And even in these situations where you go, "Oh my God, I can't believe it," Doug [Ellin, Entourage's creator] and the writers always wrote my character with a lot of integrity.

She always did get better treatment, character-wise, than most female characters in the series.
A hundred per cent, and I'll be the first to admit it. I feel like Doug was particularly protective about my character. He wanted her to stand apart from the other women that came and went. Having said that, the other women characters — like Perrey Reeves character, Mrs. Ari, Constance Zimmer's character — they're all strong women. They're all super-strong women in a man's world, and that's one perspective of this town that's real.

> **It's like the glitz and the glamour, but on crack. That's what the show — and the movie — feel like.**
> Emmanuelle Chriqui, on Entourage

Does working on this series skew your own view of the entertainment industry?
Not really. I would say the only way that I feel it's sort of bled into my life was if I'm on a heavily male-dominated set or what have you, I feel like I've had the best training of all. I'm like, "Don't worry about me, I come from, like, all the boys." I feel like I've had a really good training ground to be strong, be in my body, not be intimidated by a heavy male dominance, and I'm super-grateful for that because a lot — not all, but a lot — of this business is made up of that.

NED EHRBAR/METRO

BASE jumping as a metaphor for life

DOCUMENTARY

'If you're not paying attention, you're going to be dead'

Steve Gow
For Metro

When extreme sports legend Dean Potter died leaping in a wingsuit from a ridge in Yosemite National Park three weeks ago, it thrust a somber spotlight upon the controversial sport of BASE jumping.

But as tragic as that unfortunate death was, filmmaker Marah Strauch insists there's a lot more positive in the extreme sport of diving from fixed structures (building, antenna, span, and Earth, hence the acronym) than people tend to understand. It's something she hopes to reveal in her acclaimed documentary, Sunshine Superman.

"There are a lot of amazing things happening in BASE jumping," said Strauch during a recent interview. Rattled by the media's aversion "to report good news," she mentioned there are few examples that get favorable coverage — most notably, Felix Baumgartner's infamous 2012 supersonic skydive 24 miles above the Earth.

"It was wonderful when the media talked about that," said Strauch. "(But) I think that if he had passed away, it would've been an even bigger story. People like sensationalism (but) there's all kinds of successful things happening in BASE jumping all the time."

In Sunshine Superman, Strauch primarily focuses on the inspirational life of Carl Boenish — a cinematographer-turned-pioneering BASE jumper. As much as the movie utilizes Boenish's own captivating 16mm footage (which Strauch serendipitously stumbled upon through her uncle) to tell his story, the first-time director also aimed to present what people get out of leaping from tall buildings.

"These people are very freely doing what they love," said Strauch. "I identify with people who are true to their own vision of what life should be, whatever that may be. As long as it's not harming anybody — to me, that's something I can relate to."

Strauch may have gleaned inspiration from Boenish's found footage but admits she hasn't tried BASE jumping. Instead, Strauch discovered the sport motivated her in another form — to make the documentary.

"BASE jumping isn't for everyone at all but I think that it's something that people can be inspired by," said Strauch. "For me, this idea of overcoming fears, this idea of taking risks and being focused and concentrating on that moment of exit. In BASE jumping, if you're not paying attention, you're going to be dead. That, in life, is a really good lesson to learn."

Marah Strauch CONTRIBUTED

THE PERFECT FILMMAKER

"I was probably a good person to make the film," explained Strauch. "It could've been made into this really extreme sports, kind of macho film — which I don't think it is. It's this love story set against the backdrop of BASE jumping."

Jean and Carl Boenish in Sunshine Superman. CONTRIBUTED

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DRAMA

Aloft

Director: Claudia Llosa
Starring: Jennifer Connelly, Cillian Murphy

As we follow a mother (Jennifer Connelly) and her son (Cillian Murphy), we delve into a past marred by an accident that tears them apart. She will become a renowned artist and healer, and he will grow into his own as a peculiar falconer who bears the marks of a double absence.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
9%	+72%

ACTION & ADVENTURE

Patch Town

Director: Craig Goodwill
Starring: Zoie Palmer, Rob Ramsay

In Russian folklore, babies are born in the cabbage patch. Inspired by the award-winning short film of the same name, Patch Town tells the story of Jon, who has lived a sad life as an oppressed worker at a factory where hundreds of cabbage babies are born.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
No reviews yet	+43%

DRAMA

Hungry Hearts

Director: Saverio Costanzo
Starring: Adam Driver, Alba Rohrwacher

New York City newlyweds Jude and Mina have a seemingly perfect relationship. But things take an unsettling turn with the birth of their son. This intense psychological drama suggests that sometimes a parent's love can be the scariest thing of all.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
63%	+68%

DOCUMENTARY

Sunshine Superman

Director: Doug Ellin
Starring: Jeremy Piven, Adrian Grenier

A heart-racing documentary portrait of Carl Boenish, the father of the BASE-jumping movement, whose early passion for skydiving led him to ever more spectacular — and dangerous — feats of foot-launched human flight.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
89%	89%

HORROR

Berkshire County

Director: Audrey Cummings
Starring: Alysa King, Samora Smallwood

Kylie Winters, a bullied and self-loathing teen, reluctantly agrees to babysit at an isolated country mansion on Halloween night. When a boy in a pig mask appears at the door trick-or-treating, Kylie's night transforms into a horrifying cat-and-mouse game.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
No reviews yet	100%

DOCUMENTARY

Milk

Director: Noemi Weis

It is said that the goal of advertising is to convince you that you have a problem and then sell you the solution. This takes on a perverse, global twist when the "problems" are birth and mother's milk. This intimate and globe-trotting documentary offers insightful comparisons to the choices that face mothers in the First and Third World.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
No reviews yet	Not available yet

SLUGLINE

Blythe spirit fresh as ever

Richard Crouse
Metro | Life

Blythe Danner, right, plays Carol, a widow and former songstress in I'll See You in My Dreams. BLEECKER STREET/AP

When I mention to Blythe Danner there is Academy Award buzz around her work as Carol, a widow taking tentative steps into the world of dating in the new film I'll See You in My Dreams, she says, "That, I find idiotic." Long pause. "But thank you."

Danner made her film debut in 1972, two years after she won a Best Supporting Actress Tony Award for Butterflies Are Free on Broadway. Since then she has amassed over one hundred film and television credits, including all three Meet the Parents movies and Sylvia, where she played the mother of Sylvia Plath as portrayed by her real-life daughter Gwyneth Paltrow.

Remarkably, I'll See You in My Dreams is her first lead role on the big screen. She plays Carol, a widowed woman whose carefully constructed world is rattled when she starts dating Bill (Sam Elliott).

"I think it is a very underplayed role," she says. "Yes, she runs the gamut of emotions but there is nothing that is very extreme in my playing of this role. It is heartening that people are touched by the whole film and if they are by my performance, that is very flattering but I don't see it as an Oscar-worthy performance. I just don't see it. The possibility seems absurd to me."

The veteran actress admits to feeling uncomfortable accepting praise

"I do think there is something wrong with me. I really do. I'm very perverse. It may be the fact that I went to Quaker schools growing up. I grew up in a household where we were always told not to get a big head about being received positively. It's the work that is important. My favourite thing when I played Nina in The Seagull was her speech at the end when she says, 'I know now that it is not the fame and the glory that is important, but how to endure.'"

Danner's wonderfully rendered portrayal of Carol is being called "quietly touching" by the New York Times and "deeply felt" by Variety but she credits writer-director Brett Haley with writing a script that was, "clear and accessible and simple."

"It was all on the page," she says. "I felt so grateful. I found it effortless. I feel a little guilty about saying that because it should have been harder. From the beginning to the end it was a gift."

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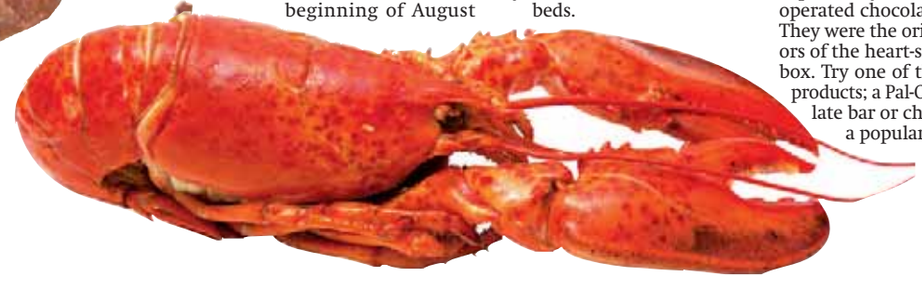

ISTOCK

CANADA

Explore the Maritimes and discover food along the way

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie

Heading to the Maritimes this summer? Let your stomach guide you.

NOVA SCOTIA

1 Lobster season never ends in Nova Scotia; it just rotates around the province's different coastal regions. The Lobster Shack in **Barrington Passage** serves up a heavenly lobster fondue where diners dip skewers of toasted garlic bread and hunks of lobster into a delicious cream sauce.

2 **Oxford** is the blueberry capital of the world. Time your visit for harvest season at the beginning of August and make sure to try blueberry grunt, dumplings cooked in a blueberry sauce.

3 Located on the Bay of Fundy, the town of **Digby** is all about scallops. Have them on their own starring in a seafood chowder.

4 Quench your thirst along the Good Cheer Trail, which includes 14 wineries, 12 craft breweries, five distilleries and five brew pubs from **Yarmouth** to **Cape Breton**. It also includes two historical sites, the Fortress of Louisbourg and Port Royal, where Samuel de Champlain established the Order of Good Cheer back in 1606 as way to raise the spirits of early settlers.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

1 The charming fishing village of **North Rustico** is home to the Blue Mussel Café, the perfect spot to sample some of the world's best mussels.

2 Carr's Oyster Bar in **Stanley Bridge** serves up Malpeque oysters fresh from their own beds.

3 Cows Ice Cream is an island classic. Visit its factory in **Charlottetown** and sample its ice cream, old cheddar cheese and chocolate-covered potato chips.

NEW BRUNSWICK

1 Ever tried seaweed? Bags of dulse are sold like potato chips at Roland's Sea Vegetables on the island of **Grand Manan**.

2 Sample delicious Acadian treats, such as poutine râpée, pets de soeur, poutine à trou and chicken fricot, at Le Menu Acadien in **Shediac** ...

3 ... Or the Restaurant La Sagouine in **Bouctouche**.

4 Ployes are buckwheat pancakes that are hugely popular in the **Edmundston** area. Contrary to a pancake, a ploye is only cooked on one side. Before eating it, butter it up and slather it in maple syrup, brown sugar or molasses.

5 Ganong Chocolates in **St. Stephen** is Canada's oldest independently family-owned and operated chocolate company. They were the original inventors of the heart-shaped candy box. Try one of their original products; a Pal-O-Mine chocolate bar or chicken bones, a popular pink Christmas candy.

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tico.ca Cuba

5 FABULOUS MIAMI HOTEL BARS TO EXPERIENCE

Drop by any one of these hotel hangouts to wet your whistle day or night, and get a little taste of South Beach elegance without having to check in.

DOUG WALLACE/FOR METRO

TIM STEWART

1 The Eden Roc

The terrazzo floors of the sunken lobby bar at the Eden Roc have welcomed the footsteps of celebrities Frank Sinatra, Katharine Hepburn and Nat King Cole, who sang Unforgettable for the first time in what is now the Mona Lisa Ballroom. Elizabeth Taylor used to circle the bar, carrying on out the door if she didn't see anybody worth hanging out with. Fittingly, there's a cocktail in her honour. EdenRocMiami.com

TIM STEWART

2 Soho Beach House

While the Soho is a members-only club/hotel, the main-floor courtyard houses Cecconi's Miami Beach restaurant, which is open to all. The bar is long, lean and comfortable and the Sunday brunch spread takes over the lobby: salmon tartare made to order, whole grilled mahi mahi, flatbread pizza with Parma ham — and a Bloody Mary cart that wheels around making everyone feel better. CecconisMiamiBeach.com

TRAYMORE RESTAURANT AND BAR VIA FACEBOOK

3 The Metropolitan

The Met's Traymore Bar, propping up a restaurant of the same name, manages to be both modern and nostalgic for the old Miami spirit. The bar's claim to fame is its dedication to gin: It stocks more than 30 artisanal varieties. Original pink and pistachio flooring is offset with white scalloped drop ceilings, white walls and white rattan chairs. The whole place smells heavenly of the hotel's eucalyptus and geranium signature scent. comohotels.com/metropolitanmiamibeach/

TIM STEWART

4 The Standard

The Lido Restaurant and Bayside Grill is a true local hangout, the name a homage to the hotel's original name: Lido Spa Hotel. Thirsty regulars congregate beside the pool at the low four-tops or along little banquettes built around flat-leaved sea grape trees. Gorgeous servers keep Ketel One martinis coming as fast as you can throw them back. This is one of the city's most beautiful spots for a nightcap at the water's edge. StandardHotels.com/Spa-Miami-Beach

THE RALEIGH VIA FACEBOOK

5 The Raleigh

The back garden patio is the place to party at this iconic hotel, which looks a lot like it did when it opened in 1940. Cool jazz, big trees built right into the decor, French café furniture, a well-dressed clientele. The lobby feels like you've walked onto a movie set; everything preserved, nothing too modernized. The real gem is the cosy, eight-seat martini bar just off the lobby, a quiet cocoon of mahogany that doesn't look a day over 70. RaleighHotel.com

TRAVEL NOTES CHEAP HOTELS AND SECRET SERVICE

Best hotel prices

While some hotels reveal unadvertised perks when you book with them directly, it's the major travel booking sites that offer a best price guarantee. You can snap up a good deal when you see it, then find a better price somewhere else later if you want. Expedia even throws in travel coupons. Less stress and more savings.

Bond hideaway

From now until Oct. 31, take advantage of a special four-night package at GoldenEye Hotel & Resort in Jamaica, once the five-bedroom villa of James Bond creator Ian Fleming. This is where he wrote all 14 Bond novels. Write postcards at Fleming's original desk and have cocktails at Noel Coward's old house next door. Visit GoldenEye.com. DOUG WALLACE

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Living on the edge

ADVENTURE

These skywalks are not for the faint of heart

Steve Gow
For Metro

BRIDGECLIMB — SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

What it is: If you don't mind climbing stairs, BridgeClimb is a march over the outer arches of the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge where you'll be able to soak in the gorgeous panorama of Australia's largest metropolis from 134 metres above the harbour.
Why it should be tackled: The views are simply sensational. Plus, if climbing the bridge doesn't wear you out, your admission also includes the Pylon Lookout — a 200-stair ascent to breathtaking views of Sydney's Opera House and three levels of exhibits about the history of the Harbour Bridge. bridgeclimb.com

BRIDGECLIMB SYDNEY

EDGEWALK VIA FACEBOOK

EDGEWALK — TORONTO

What it is: The world record holder for "highest external walk on a building," CN Tower's EdgeWalk offers the chance to stroll "hands free" around the circumference of Toronto's iconic skyscraper. While participants are harnessed for safety, daredevils are still encouraged to lean themselves out 116 storeys above the city.
Why it should be tackled: EdgeWalk not only allows for a one-of-a-kind view of Canada's largest city, but admission also gets you a video, photos, access to the LookOut level, Glass Floor and other attractions. edgewalkcntower.ca

FLICKR: WILLIAM NG

GLACIER SKYWALK — ALBERTA

What it is: Jutting out from a roadside cliff-edge atop the Sunwapta valley between Jasper and Banff, Glacier Skywalk offers fearless travellers the opportunity to traverse a glass-floored walkway 918 feet over forest and waterfalls.
Why it should be tackled: For as little as $30, intrepid tourists can experience one of the most breathtaking views in the Canadian Rockies. And if acrophobia (extreme fear of heights) doesn't set in, you may even enjoy some of the nature-inspired interpretive exhibits along the way. glacierskywalk.ca

FLICKR: STEPHAN HAUBOLD

GRAND CANYON SKYWALK — ARIZONA

What it is: The Skywalk is the only place along the Grand Canyon where travellers can amble along a glass-bottomed walkway 4,000 feet above the Colorado River. Built in 2007, the horseshoe-shaped bridge is strong enough to support about 70 747 airplanes.
Why it should be tackled: Although the Skyway is a bit on the pricey side and in a relatively remote area, venturesome tourists say the experience is exhilarating and provides absolutely stunning views of the Grand Canyon. grandcanyonskywalk.com

ISTOCK

TIANMEN MOUNTAIN — CHINA

What it is: The skywalk on Tianmen Mountain in Zhangjiajie, China, is the apex for adventurers. First, daredevils need to ride the world's longest cable car (more than 7 kilometres) just to reach a sheer cliff-face that hangs 1,433 metres above sea level. There awaits a rickety, nearly one-metre wide glass-bottomed overhang.
Why it should be tackled: Face your fears. Tianmen National Park also offers other plucky pursuits, including the Xianren Qiao (Bridge of the Immortals), a narrow rock bridge. chinahighlights.com/zhangjiajie/attraction

Summer hiking in Arctic Circle

SWEDEN

Reindeer, famous lights await on Kungsleden

Few people outside Nordic countries know about the Kungsleden, or the King's Path, the most famous trail in Sweden. But National Geographic calls it one of the world's greatest hikes, and it's easy to discern why.

Above the Arctic Circle? Yes. Northern lights? Yes. Reindeer? Yes, at close range. Icebergs and polar bears? No.

Between the end of June and mid-September, when mountain huts are open and there's rarely snow, the far north shows itself in the spare landscape and unusual light.

The landscape is not the Himalaya, though hills lining the wide valley are the weathered nubs of mountains once just as high. With few trees, the view is clear and gorgeous. The path is dotted with bushes bearing edible, bright red lingonberries. The wind can be strong and cold.

Reindeer and the indigenous Sami people help break the open landscape. In summer, the semi-nomadic Sami round up and identify young reindeer. In fall, hunting and slaughtering season begins.

The most popular part of the Kungsleden is its northernmost stretch, easily reached by a brief Scandinavian Airlines flight and bus ride, or an overnight train from Stockholm. The train stops across from one of the biggest and busiest mountain lodges along the trail, in of Abisko.

440

Approximate number of kilometres the Kungsleden covers in northern Sweden.
WIKIPEDIA

From the tiny village, the Kungsleden offers a multi-day hike, accessible by public transport, with huts along the way. On the trail, you can also camp pretty much wherever you like. During hiking season, shelters are open with gas stoves, bunk beds, woodstoves for heat and candles for light. Water comes from nearby streams.

One of the many simple wooden walkways over vulnerable stretches of Sweden's popular Kungsleden trail.
CARA ANNA VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You're expected to fend for yourself, for example, in sawing wood and lighting fires.

Custodians welcome you with a glass of juice, take payments and show you around. Bring your own food for the entire week-long hike in case the small shops in some shelters run low on staples, such as pasta and canned protein. Try the fish balls.

Between shelters, hikes run 12 to 22 kms. From Abisko to the bustling mountain lodge at Kebnekaise, near the foot of Sweden's tallest mountain, the walk is generally level or rolling. Marshy areas are crossed with two-plank walkways, and streams have bridges or stepping stones. That almost relentlessly stony path is challenging, especially while carrying a backpack with a week's worth of food. But a good number of Kungsleden hikers were middle-aged, including a lanky 70-year-old man from Denmark and a pair of Swedish women in their 60s.

The indigenous Sami people and others who come to fish on the Kungsleden use this hut. CARA ANNA VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Near the shelter at Salka, in a vast bowl formed where valleys meet, you may glimpse a small herd of reindeer wandering across the trail.

The Kungsleden's simple pleasures shift back to civilization from the village of Nikkaluokta, a day's hike from Kebnekaise, where a couple of buses a day during hiking season go to the regional centre of Kiruna less than an hour away. The small mining city offers good local food at the Safari Cafe, a well-resourced tourist bureau, a striking old wooden church, a bookstore with a modest English section and the local branch of the Swedish chain H&M.

Good Swedish coffee is easily found. Kiruna also has several hostels and hotels, and a shared taxi to the airport a few kilometres away can be arranged.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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THE BEST HIGH-TECH TREATS FOR FATHER'S DAY

Treat your techy dad (or yourself!) to these gadgets this Father's Day:

3D PRINTERS
They're the coolest tech toy for creative dads. This gadget uses plastic filaments to build up a three-dimensional prototype, letting you custom-make everything from spare parts to jewellery almost instantly. At-home versions are becoming more affordable as they become more advanced.

SMART WATCHES
They've been around for a while, but have generally been big and bulky. Thanks to developments in smaller, longer-lasting battery power and a wide selection of apps, we'll soon be using smart watches to send and receive messages, sync up our electronics, remotely control our smart phones and, of course, tell time.

A PORTABLE CHARGER
Whether you're out on a family hike or hanging out at soccer practice far from an outlet, every dad on the go has at some point been caught with a low battery. A portable power bank will ensure that you're always energized.

HIGH-END HEADPHONES
Today's top models feature everything from wireless Bluetooth technology to high-fidelity sound. Sound-cancelling also promises to dampen the sound of fighting children.

HIGH-TECH GROOMING
Even if you're already a loyal user of electronics, chances are it's time to upgrade to the Philips Shaver 9000. It's Philips' most advanced electric shaver ever, set to deliver super-close precision grooming for years.

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PHILIPS

metro SPORTS

Olympic gold-medal winning speedskater Christine Nesbitt has retired

WEEKEND, June 5-7, 2015

‘Best coach I’ve ever had’

WOMEN’S WORLD CUP

Herdman motivates his players on and off pitch

The Canadian women call John Herdman the “Black Flash” when their coach joins in on their soccer practices. It’s a name he gave himself, they note.

Herdman, who played for his university as well as semi-pro teams back home in England, has a sense of humour. He also likes his party tricks on the ball.

“He does have some moves,” said veteran midfielder Diana Matheson. “The Black Flash’s downfall is that he maybe uses too many moves and he gets himself into trouble and maybe causes a few goals against his team that way.”

But most of all, Herdman is a master motivator and source of inspiration, his players say. No one works harder or longer.

They say Herdman has made them better players and better people.

Those skills will be put to the ultimate soccer test starting this weekend — the Women’s World Cup. Canada, ranked eighth in the world, opens Saturday against No. 16 China at Commonwealth Stadium.

John Herdman took over as Canada’s coach following the 2011 Women’s World Cup. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Herdman’s journey with the Canadian women started when he took over from Carolina Morace in the wake of a disastrous 2011 World Cup that saw Canada finish last.

Ask the players what state they were in after the tournament in Germany, almost every one uses the same word: broken.

One of his mentors told Herdman he needed to find a way to get the Canadian team reconnected after the “trauma” of the 2011 World Cup. In doing his homework, Herdman was struck by Canada’s patriotism.

“My first piece was like, ‘Who are you as Canadians?’ That was my first question. Tell us,” said Herdman. “And we went 30 minutes in a meeting. They’d never been asked that before by a Norwegian or an Italian coach.”

In Canada’s final warm-up game last week, every member of the match-day squad took the field for the anthems before facing England in Hamilton. They put their arms over their neighbours’ shoulder and sang O Canada together. Only the English starters were on the field.

Herdman has challenged his players to become true leaders, a subject they have literally studied off the field through books and lectures. He has had them strip away defence mechanisms to share their emotions with their teammates, further strengthening team ties.

Ask his players what it’s like working under Herdman, and they say it’s an honour and a privilege.

“(He’s) somebody that knows absolutely how to get the best out of people,” said veteran defender Carmelina Moscato. “He’s a high-performing guy. He’s created the environment for that. And you talk about squeezing blood from a rock, I mean he’s really done it with a lot of us — reinventing us.

“I’m 31 years old and he continues to call me a modern centre back. So I’ll take it. It’s pretty awesome.”

“The best coach I’ve ever had,” said forward Jonelle Filigno. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PROFILE

Age: 39
Place of birth: Consett, England
Teams managed: New Zealand (2006-2011), Canada (2011-present)
Past career: University lecturer

FIFA scandal dominates opening news conference

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Even the dullest of knives could have cut the tension by the end of Thursday’s opening news conference for the 2015 FIFA Women’s World Cup, as wave after wave of questions about the ongoing FIFA scandal rolled upon the dignitaries at the podium.

On more than one occasion, FIFA media relations manager Segolene Valentin, who was moderating the news conference, butted in to ask if there were questions about the actual tournament.

FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke was initially slated to attend the opening news conference, but has become among the latest officials to be swept up in the widespread corruption scandal and will remain in Zurich, Switzerland.

Valentin could not confirm if Sepp Blatter, who declared that he’s stepping down as the president of soccer’s governing body, just days after re-election following the dramatic arrests of several FIFA officials in Switzerland, will be in Canada for the tournament.

920K

The number of tickets sold so far for the Women’s World Cup

And by the end of it, Victor Montagliani, president of the Canadian Soccer Association and chair for the national organizing committee, sternly lectured reporters to “maybe look in the mirror a little bit and maybe not put people on a pedestal so you can whack the hell out of them after,” when further questioned about his relationship with Jeffrey Webb, who was among those FIFA officials arrested on corruption charges.

In a Business Vancouver article, Montagliani listed Webb as one of his “inspirations.”

“Having said that, if the allegations ... are true, then obviously that would change a lot of people’s opinion,” said Montagliani.

Saturday’s opener is expected to draw a crowd of 52,000 people at Edmonton’s Commonwealth Stadium.

“I think we should all thank that it’s the Women’s World Cup that is immediately following here,” said Montagliani, “because I think it’s an opportunity for women’s football to shine some light onto the game that has perhaps lost a little bit of its moral compass.”

Canadian Soccer Association president Victor Montagliani speaks during a news conference for the Women’s World Cup in Vancouver on Thursday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

FIFA NOTES

Body admits to writing off $5M loan to Ireland

FIFA has admitted to giving Ireland $5 million in compensation for missing out on a place at the 2010 World Cup after Thierry Henry’s handball that set up the French winner.

The payment — initially a loan — was not disclosed in the wake of the 2009 playoff game, which France won 2-1 on aggregate to reach the finals in South Africa.

Thierry Henry GETTY IMAGES FILE

The cash from FIFA was first disclosed in public on Thursday by Football Association of Ireland chief executive John Delaney, who didn’t say it was a loan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South African police investigating bribe claims

South African authorities have opened a preliminary investigation into World Cup bribery allegations, and an opposition lawmaker said Thursday he had information suggesting “high-level” involvement.

Anton Alberts of the Freedom Front Plus said the information his party received claimed a previous investigation into payments around the World Cup bid was stopped by “high-level interference.”

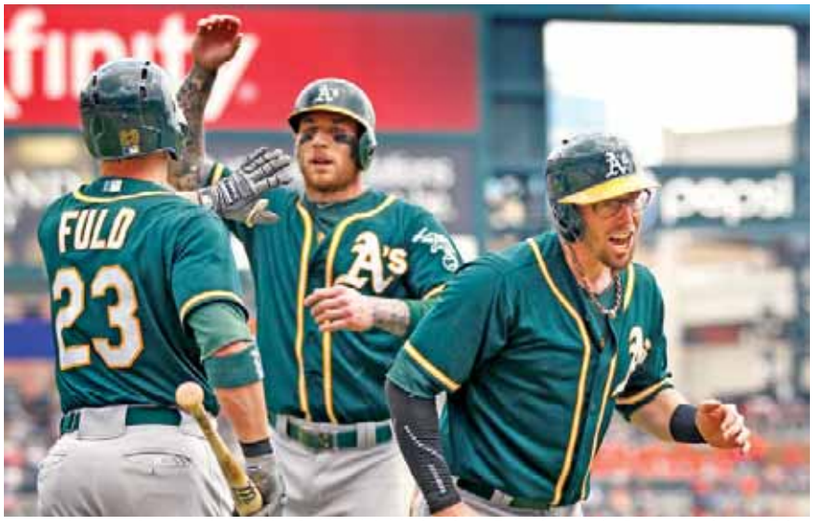
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Racism reason for Qatar World Cup hate: Minister

Qatar’s foreign minister says racism is behind the allegations that his country was wrongly awarded the 2022 World Cup, and he denounced the furor surrounding the widening FIFA scandal.

Khalid Bin Mohammad Al Attiyah, visiting Tunisia, said on Thursday that his country co-operated with American investigators and was cleared of any suspicion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MLB A'S ADD TO TIGERS' ANGST Oakland Athletics Sam Fuld, from left, Brett Lawrie and Eric Sogard celebrate after scoring on a triple by Josh Phegley in the second inning in Thursday's win in Detroit. Jesse Hahn allowed one run in seven innings and the A's completed a three-game sweep of Detroit, winning 7-5 and handing the Tigers their seventh straight loss.
DUANE BURLESON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Serena survives early struggles at Roland Garros

Ill and sluggish, Serena Williams overcame a big deficit to reach the French Open final by beating 23rd-seeded Timea Bacsinszky of Switzerland 4-6, 6-3, 6-0 on Thursday.

With the temperature nearing 30 C on the hottest day of the tournament, Williams walked ever so slowly to changeovers, where even lowering herself to sit down seemed to be difficult. During those breaks, she pressed ice towels against her forehead and neck and guzzled water.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Juventus' Chiellini out for Champions League final

Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini has been ruled out of Saturday's Champions League final against Barcelona because of a left calf injury, robbing the Italians of one of its most important players.

He'll miss out on a reunion with Barcelona striker Luis Suarez, who bit Chiellini on the shoulder during the World Cup in Brazil last year.

Juventus said on its website that Chiellini had discomfort in his calf on Wednesday. A scan revealed he has torn a muscle. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leafs sign Swede Johnson

The Toronto Maple Leafs have signed forward Andreas Johnson to a three-year entry-level contract and have re-signed defenceman T.J. Brennan to a one-year contract.

Johnson 20, registered 35 points (22 goals, 13 assists) in 55 regular season games with Frolunda of the Swedish Hockey League during the 2014-15 season.

In 2013-14, Johnson was named the Swedish Hockey League rookie of the year and won a silver medal with Sweden at the world junior hockey championships.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finn's progress far from finished

STANLEY CUP FINAL

Teravainen's development on display with title on the line

Teuvo Teravainen is a cold-blooded scorer, in the eyes of Marian Hossa.

"He doesn't seem to have a heartbeat," Hossa said. "He's so calm. He's Finnish cold."

With ice chips in his veins as the intensity has risen, Teravainen has heated up as the playoffs have gone on. Leading the Blackhawks past the Tampa Bay Lightning with two points in Game 1 of the Stanley Cup final served as something of a coming-out party for the 20-year-old rookie.

Teravainen is one of the best prospects in hockey. But veteran Kimmo Timonen believes his fellow Finn has a lot of work to do before he can reach NHL stardom.

"He's got a long way to go," Timonen said. "He's a skinny guy, so he's got to start lifting weights and doing that ... I told him, 'This summer, you've got to make sure you work out.

"Golf is not a workout."'

Teravainen, like so many young, talented players can make it look easy. The world junior star oozes skill and has magic hands, a product of playing floor ball while growing up.

His talent is undeniable but his game is often inconsistent. After Teravainen spent the first half of the season in the minors, coach Joel Quenneville at times made him a healthy scratch, including five times in these playoffs.

Quenneville likes Teravainen's "upside" and his respect for veterans. He hopes Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane rub off on him.

"I think watching these guys on a regular basis could help him grow, help him learn what it takes to be a great player, top player, game in, game out," Quenneville said.

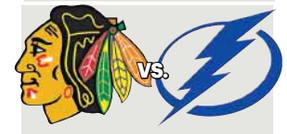
Timonen said this was the "perfect team" for Teravainen to break into the league with because there are so many hard-working, highly skilled players around to observe and learn from. The 40-year-old defenceman who Teravainen called his "second dad" thinks his new protegé can be as good as Kane but only with the necessary work.

"He can be a superstar in this league," Timonen said Wednesday. "But it's still in the process that he's got to realize, 'OK, I've got to make sure summer I work out every day, and I've got to watch these guys how they prepare for the games like Toews and Kane and (Duncan) Keith and these guys.'"
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teuvo Teravainen speaks to reporters on Thursday in Tamap, Fla. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He's a pretty good skater, but think about when you get 10 pounds of muscle around him.
Kimmo Timonen on 'Hawks teammate and fellow Finn Teuvo Teravainen

THIS WEEKEND



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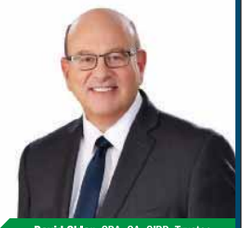
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RECIPE Arugula Tomato Quinoa Salad

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

A delicious and refreshing summer salad. Quinoa is a complete protein, making this a great option as a main dish for vegetarians.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients
- 1½ cups cooked quinoa (½ uncooked)
- 4 cups cherry tomatoes, sliced in half (red and yellow)
- 4 cups arugula or spinach
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 2 oz crumbled feta cheese
- ¼ cup fresh chopped mint or basil

Directions

1. If cooking quinoa, add one and a half cups stock or water to each half cup uncooked quinoa. Bring to boil, cover and simmer, on lowest heat for 15 minutes, just until quinoa is tender. Drain off any excess liquid. Add to serving bowl.

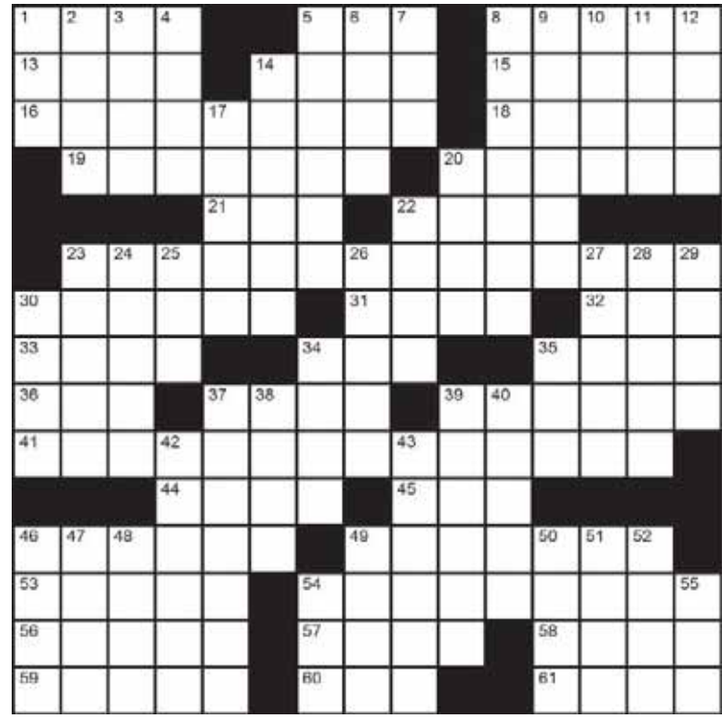
2. When quinoa is cooled, add remaining ingredients and mix well.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 140
- Protein 5 g
- Fibre 3 g
- Fat 7 g
- Saturated fat 1.5 g
- Cholesterol 5 mg
- Sodium 160 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Shangri-la
5. Camera mugger
8. Canuck chocolate bar, with Coffee
13. "__: Warrior Princess"
14. 2016 Presidential candidate Mr. Paul
15. __! Canada (Celebrity/style magazine)
16. 1966 album by #54-Across: 2 wds.
18. In front
19. Psychotherapist mentioned in Barenaked Ladies song "Brian Wilson": 2 wds.
20. Wave tops
21. Alphabetic trio
22. Capital city of Togo
23. Bit of "Brian Wilson" by the Barenaked Ladies: "__ __ __ / I couldn't see the ground..."
30. Stalwart
31. Crucifix
32. Small, cute-style
33. Allows
34. Ruckus
35. Go through
36. And: German
37. Mayberry kid of '60s TV
39. Soft drink brand
41. Song by #54-Across on their 1967 'Smiley Smile' album: 2 wds.
44. Roger who played Robin Colcord on "Cheers"
45. Ink-on-skin pic
46. __ shop (Place to drive to on a Tuesday night in "Brian Wilson" by the Barenaked Ladies)
49. Sword fighters
53. Set of values
54. Brian Wilson's band, with The: 2 wds.
56. Lizard variety
57. Ploy
58. Digging dog's discovery
59. Backslide
60. Poetic piece
61. Fret

DOWN
1. __. date (Food label info)
2. Feat
3. __'acte (Intermission)
4. FC Edmonton sports org.
5. Pass, as a relay baton: 2 wds.
6. Canadian musician Mr. Kim
7. ER pros
8. TV series about sister witches
9. Fix a shoe in a way
10. Islands: French
11. Crate strip
12. Seal herds
14. Goes over with, as an itinerary: 2 wds.
17. Raced in a regatta
20. __ salmon
22. City in France known for silk
23. Office item, __ pad
24. Surpass
25. "The Wrestler" (2008) star ...his initials-sharers
26. Less wet, variantly
27. Without the extras
28. Light rains
29. Additional
30. Garden denizen
34. "First __!" (Rights-claimer's exclamation)
35. For
37. Supervise
38. __ Piper
39. Position
40. __ and catch
42. Reacts like Pavlov's dog
43. Comfy: 2 wds.
46. Tangible
47. Volcano in Sicily
48. Cut
49. Game show, "Family __"
50. Dwindles
51. Tooth part
52. Since, to Robert Burns
54. Sibling to sis'
55. Stitch

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Better times are on their way and evidence of that will be with you soon. Venus in your fellow Fire sign of Leo will encourage you to see the harmony that exists in all situations, even the ones that provoke confrontation.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You may be tempted to work harder than ever but the planets indicate it would be better if you took the opposite approach. Slow down and don't take life so seriously.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you have found it difficult to get your message across of late then it should be easier today and over the weekend. Travel and social activities are also under good stars now, so get out and about and make sure you get seen.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
In recent weeks you had to get serious about your money situation but as Venus moves into the most materialistic area of your chart today you won't have to make quite so many sacrifices.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Put recent failures and disappointments behind you and focus on all the good things yet to come. Forget all that doom and gloom stuff and make things happen. Anything is possible if you want it enough.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Try not to worry if your confidence takes a bit of a dive today. Your positive attitude will return over the weekend and you will wonder how you managed to doubt yourself. Friends and family, of course, never did.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Friendships and group activities will go exceedingly well today and over the weekend. Even if you are the kind of Libra who enjoys your own company you'll want to be where the action is. Party time!

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The plans you make over the next few days will be important but try not to make them too restrictive. For best results you need to leave yourself some wiggle room so you can make changes as you go along. Be flexible.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You are in one of your adventurous moods and if you are not off exploring new places it can only be because you are short of cash. Find ways to limit your spending in some areas so you can do more in others.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It's good news all-round for money matters and business arrangements. The entry of Venus into the wealth area of your chart means you can expect some kind of windfall. A joint project will pay off big time.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
There is a lot you can accomplish alone but there is so much more you can accomplish if you join forces with people whose objectives mirror your own. Venus in your opposite sign will encourage you not to be such a lone wolf.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
A new project is more likely to be a success if you take your time and plan what needs to be done in advance. You need to take things a step at a time.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		8	7			3	4	
5			9					
6								2
				3			1	8
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9	6			2				
4								1
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	8	7			5	2		

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